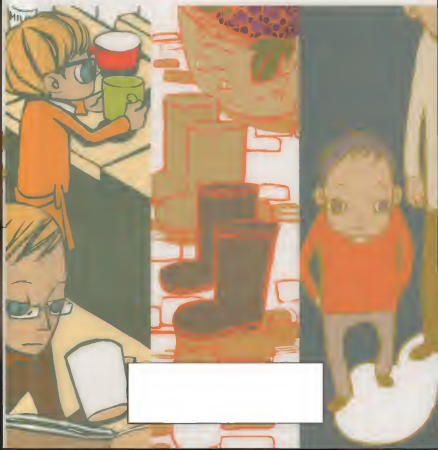




## A COLLECTION OF CONNECTION

A collection of six heartwarming short stories, *Danza* explores friendship, father/son relationships, a bond between brothers, and a rekindling of old acquaintances. Join Ivo as he journeys to Italy to reconnect with his papa. Travel back in time to see Ralph reconnect with his father. Watch as a German-American, Hol, attempts to bond with his Japanese father-in-law, and more!

INCLUDES SPECIAL EXTRAS AFTER THE STORY!



DISNEY



ZATSCHE  
OZ

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**DanZon**  
ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGN BY  
NATSUME DINO

COVER DESIGN BY  
NISHIMOTO HIROSHI

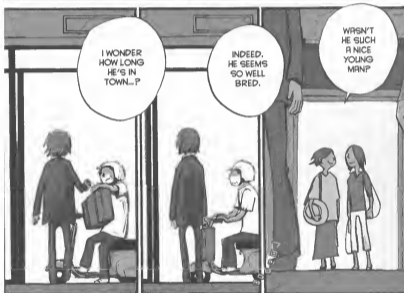
THE  
PLEASURE  
WAS MINE.

THE TIME  
JUST  
FLEW BY.

IT WAS FUN  
TRAVELING  
WITH YOU.

IT'S A  
SMALL TOWN,  
SO I HOPE  
WE'LL SEE  
YOU AGAIN.









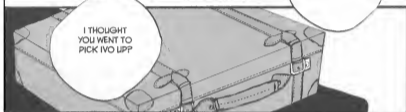
CORNICE

1

# RUBBER BOOTS



MY  
GOODNESS,  
PIPPO!



I THOUGHT  
YOU WENT TO  
PICK IVO UP?



ONLY  
FROM  
THE BUS  
STOR

YOU RAN  
ALL THE WAY  
HERE?

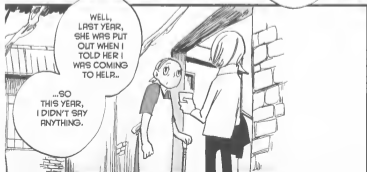
IVO!



HE CAME  
HOME JUST  
TO HELP YOU  
WITH THE  
GRAPE  
HARVEST,  
YOU  
KNOW!



WHY DID  
YOU ONLY  
BRING BACK  
HIS BAG?





LAST YEAR WAS  
THE FIRST TIME  
IN CLOSE TO TEN  
YEARS THAT I'D  
EVEN SEEN YOU.

AND  
THAT WOMAN  
WOULDN'T LET  
PIPPO SEE YOU  
AFTER THE  
DIVORCE,  
EITHER...

WELL, THEY  
DID SPLIT UP  
FOLLOWING  
A BIG  
QUARREL.



COMPARED TO  
WHEN PIPPO AND  
MY LOVE FIRST  
BOUGHT THAT LAND  
TOGETHER, IT'S  
BECOME QUITE  
A FINE PLOT.



AND WHAT  
STARTED AS  
A HOBBY OF  
MAKING WINE IS  
NOW EAGERLY  
ANTICIPATED BY  
THE NEIGHBORS,  
TOO.



IT'LL REALLY  
HELP PIPPO  
OUT FOR YOU  
TO LEND HIM  
A HAND.





YOU  
BROUGHT  
RUBBER  
BOOTS?



YUR



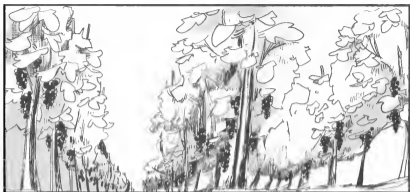
THANKS.

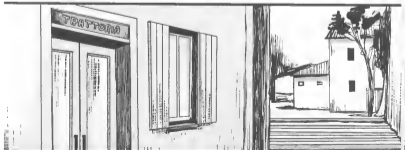


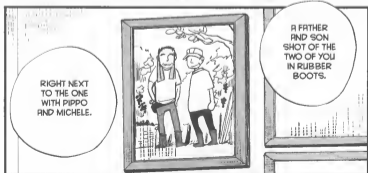
THAT'S  
NOT  
UNUSUAL,  
IS IT?

YOU KNOW,  
HE'S FEELING  
AWKWARD  
BECAUSE HE  
HASN'T SEEN  
YOU IN SO  
LONG.











...HE WAS SAYING LAST YEAR THAT HE'D PICK THE HARVEST BY HIMSELF...

WITH HIS LONG-TERM YEARLY PARTNER MICHELE DEAD...

I'M SURE PIPPO IS FEELING RELIEVED.



YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD SON!

...BUT THEN YOU RETURNED TO HELP



THEY'D BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE KIDS, AFTER ALL.

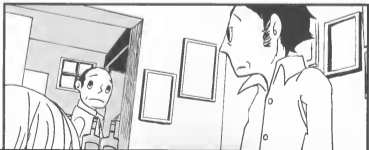


IT AIN'T A LARGE PLOT, BUT PIPPO'S NO SPRING CHICKEN. IT'D BE HARD ON HIM TO DO IT ALONE.

YOU KNOW, HE'S MORE ENERGETIC THAN I AM.



HE'S AGED A LOT SINCE MICHELE DIED.



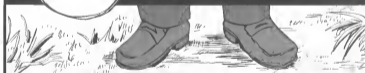




...SO I'LL  
COME AND  
HELP WITH THIS  
YEAR'S GRAPE  
HARVEST.

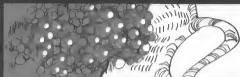


THIS WORK  
ISN'T SUITED  
FOR CAKE  
EATERS.



...BUT I'M  
STILL THE  
SAME OLD  
ME.

MOTHER'S  
SECOND  
HUSBAND MAY  
BE A MAN OF  
MEANS...



IT HAD  
ALWAYS BEEN  
THE TWO OF US,  
MICHELE AND  
ME.



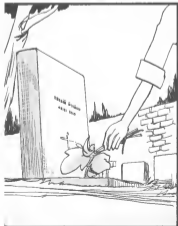
WE MADE  
THIS WINE  
TOGETHER.

THIS FIELD IS  
MICHELE'S AND  
MY TREASURE.



MICHELE BALDASSARI.

1946 - 2005



...BUT THAT  
SEEMS TO  
BE TOUGH,  
TOO.

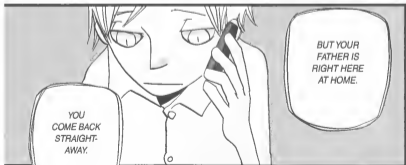
...IF IT WERE  
TOO DIFFICULT  
TO BE FATHER  
AND SON  
AGAIN...

HE  
HASN'T  
EVEN TRIED  
OUR WINE.

...I'D HOPED  
WE COULD  
AT LEAST BE  
FRIENDS.

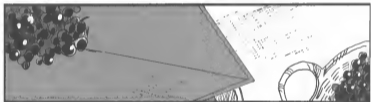
I ENVY YOU,  
UNCLE.







...I  
WONDER IF  
FRIENDSHIP  
ISN'T  
POSSIBLE,  
EITHER.















...YOU  
BOUGHT  
THEM FOR  
ME?



THOSE  
BRAND-  
NEW  
BOOTS  
OVER  
THERE...



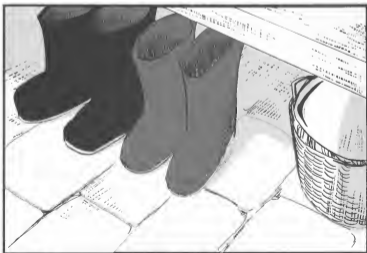
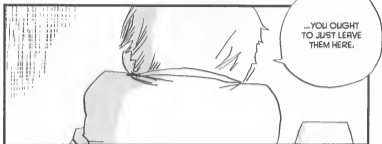
THEY'RE  
MINE.



...



BUT  
YOUR  
BOOTS...



**END**



IS THERE  
SOMETHING  
YOU CAN  
THINK OF...

...THAT YOU  
WISH YOU HAD  
GOTTEN TO  
DO IN YOUR  
LIFETIME?

ANYTHING  
AT ALL...

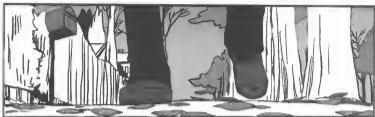
...FATHER?



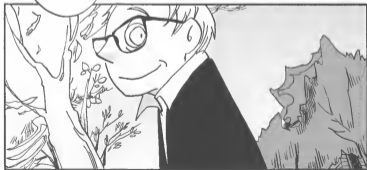
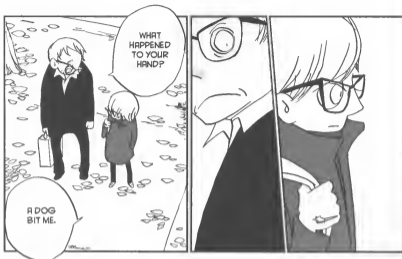
CORNICE  
**2**

MEMORIES OF  
THE LAKE

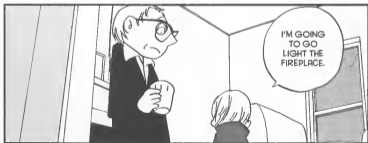


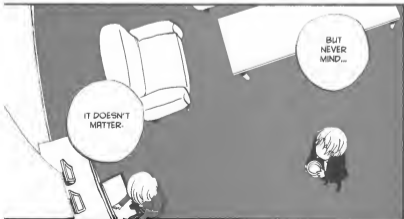


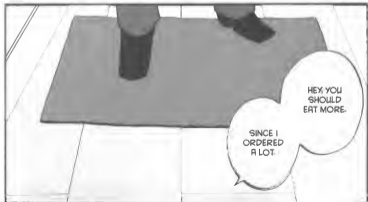
















BUT YOU  
TWO LOOK  
SO CLOSE,  
THERE?

IT'S A  
"KEEPING UP  
APPEARANCES"  
THING.



HE SAID  
YOU COULD  
STAY OVER.



THAT  
MAN'S NOT  
REALLY THAT  
INTERESTED...

...IN THIS  
HOUSE...

...OR  
IN ME...



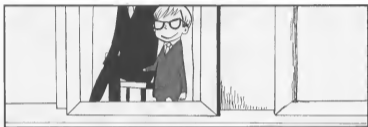
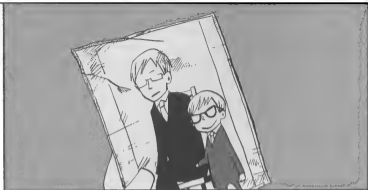
THOUGH  
WE BARELY  
TALK.

I ONLY  
LIVE HERE  
ON THE FEW  
OCCASIONS  
WHEN THAT  
MAN COMES  
HOME.

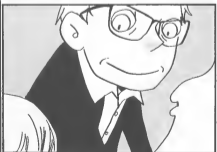
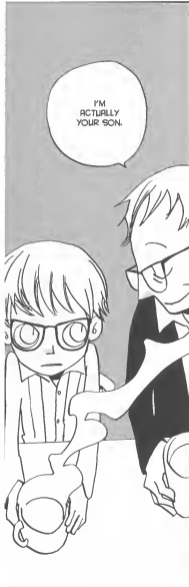
I USUALLY  
STAY WITH  
AND AM  
TAKEN CARE  
OF BY MY  
AUNT.



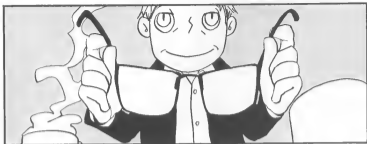
















YOU  
ARE QUITE  
FAMOUS IN  
MY ERA.



WILL  
YOU...

...ACCEPT  
MY STORY  
AS TRUTH?



THAT  
PAPER ON  
TIME TRAVEL  
THEORY  
THAT YOU  
PUBLISHED  
LAST YEAR?

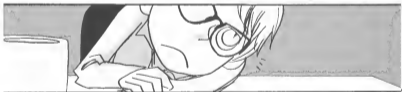
IT LED TO A  
REAL BOOM  
IN RESEARCH,  
HENCEFORTH.

SO MUCH  
SO THAT  
RESTRICTIONS  
WERE PLACED.



I AM  
HONORED  
TO BE HERE  
RIGHT NOW,  
STANDING  
BEFORE  
YOU...

...NOT  
JUST AS YOUR  
GRANDSON,  
BUT AS A FELLOW  
SCIENTIST AND  
COLLEAGUE.



WHRT DID  
YOU COME  
HERE FOR?



THIS  
ALBUM...  
DOESN'T  
CONTAIN ANY  
PICTURES  
OF ME...

...PAST A  
CERTAIN  
POINT...

...THOUGH  
THERE ARE  
ONES OF MY  
SON AND ELDER  
SISTER'S  
FAMILY...

TO SPEND  
SOME  
QUALITY  
TIME WITH  
MY GRAND-  
FATHER...

...AND  
YOUNGER  
FATHER.

...AM I  
GOING  
TO DIE?





I THINK  
THEY DO  
EXPERIMENTS  
TOGETHER OR  
SOMETHING.

FRED  
WORKS  
WITH PAPA.



I WON-  
DER IF IT'S  
TOP-SECRET  
STUFF.



THAT  
MAN IS A  
SCIENTIST.



HE'S AN  
EGOMANIAC  
WHO OVER-  
VALUES  
HIMSELF.

THAT MAN  
ISN'T HAPPY  
WITH HOW  
HE'S BEING  
TREATED.

BUT  
MAYBE HE  
TRULY IS AN  
INCREDIBLE  
MAN.

I HEARD  
HIM COM-  
PLAINING  
ONCE, TO  
FRED, OVER  
THE PHONE.



BUT  
I DON'T  
REALLY  
KNOW WHAT  
KIND OF  
RESEARCH  
HE DOES.  
  
'CUZ  
HE WON'T  
TELL ME  
ANYTHING.





...THAT I'D  
BE LEAVING  
BEHIND, BUT  
YOU'VE GOT  
A SON!

WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?

...I DON'T  
HAVE A  
FAMILY OR  
ANYTHING  
ELSE...



I AGONIZED  
ALL LAST  
NIGHT. BUT  
I'VE SINCE  
LEARNED THAT  
I ACCEPTED  
THE DEAL.



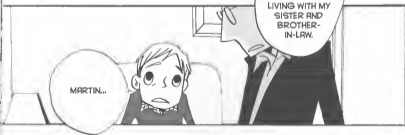
YOU CAN'T  
REALLY SAY  
WE'RE PARENT  
AND CHILD.

WE BARELY  
INTERACT.



THAT BOY  
DOESN'T  
SEE ME AS  
A FATHER,  
EITHER.

I KNOW HE'LL  
BE HAPPIER  
LIVING WITH MY  
SISTER AND  
BROTHER-  
IN-LAW.



MARTIN...



IN AN  
UNRESTRICTED  
ENVIRONMENT,  
UNLIKE HERE.

AT ANY  
RATE, I WANT  
TO IMMERSE  
MYSELF IN  
RESEARCH.



THE FACT  
THAT YOU'RE  
STILL HERE  
MEANS YOU  
MANAGED TO  
CONVINCE HIM.

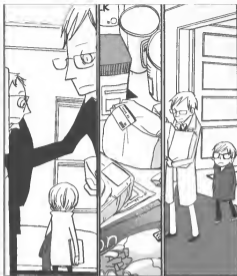


IT SEEMS HE  
TOOK SOME TIME  
OFF, SO MAYBE  
HE'S HOPING TO  
AVOID GETTING  
BORED.

HA HA  
HA.

IT'S A  
TREMENDOUS  
THING FOR THAT  
MAN TO PLAY  
ALONG WITH  
SUCH MAKE-  
BELIEVE.





WE'RE  
EATING  
PIZZA  
AGAIN?

BUT YOU  
JUST WENT  
GROCERY  
SHOPPING?

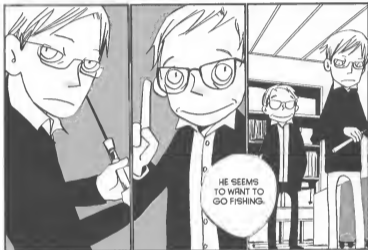






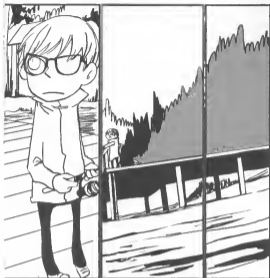


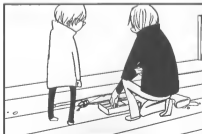


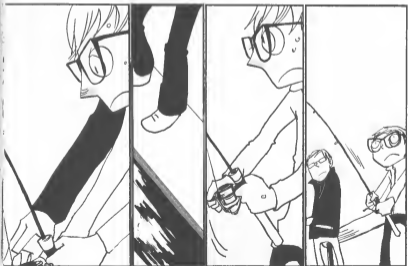
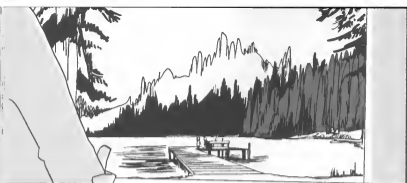


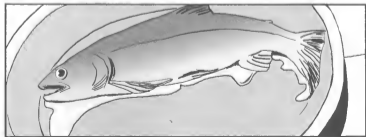
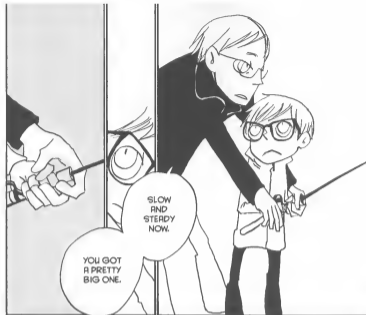


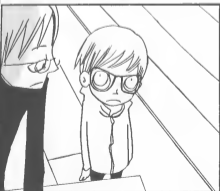
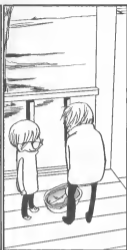




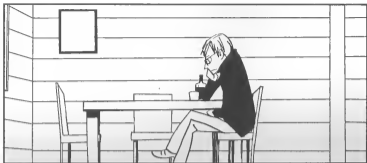








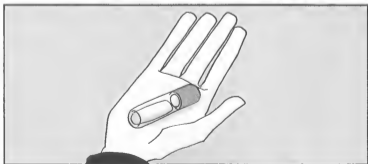




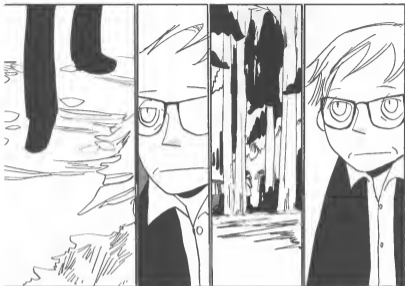












BUT THEY WOULD  
HAVE JUST IDLED  
THE DAY AWAY  
INSTEAD OF  
GOING FISHING.



EVEN HAD I NOT  
SHOWN UP, THE  
TWO OF THEM  
WOULD STILL HAVE  
COME TO THIS  
LAKE SHORE.

...PERHAPS  
GRANDFATHER  
WANTED TO  
CREATE ONE  
LAST MEMORY  
BEFORE HIS  
"DEATH."

IN ADDITION  
TO HIS  
OLDER  
SISTER'S  
ENCOUR-  
AGEMENT...

HAVING LONG BEEN UNDER  
SCRUTINY BECAUSE OF HIS  
EXALTED PRINCIPLES,  
POSITION, AND INTELLIGENCE,  
GRANDFATHER ENDED UP  
GETTING ASSASSINATED BY  
THE AUTHORITIES BEFORE HE  
MANAGED TO "KILL" HIMSELF

IS THAT  
MAN AT  
WORK?

HE  
IS AN  
AWFULLY  
BUSY  
MAN.

THANKS TO MY  
GRANDFATHER'S  
SECRETIVENESS,  
FATHER FORTU-  
NATELY NEVER  
FOUND OUT THE  
TRUTH AND  
WAS ADOPTED  
BY HIS AUNT  
SOON AFTER...

FATHER  
("RALPH"), WHO  
WITNESSED THE  
MURDER, LOST  
ALL MEMORIES  
OF THAT  
PERIOD FROM  
THE SHOCK.

...A  
HOS-  
PITAL?



FOR THERE WAS  
NOTHING THAT  
COULD ATTEST  
TO MY KINSHIP TO  
GRANDFATHER.

...BUT IT'S  
THANKS AT LEAST  
IN PART TO THAT  
THAT I WAS ABLE  
TO PURSUE MY  
OWN PATH.

NOT WANTING  
A FAMILY, RALPH  
WOULD NEVER  
FORMALLY  
BECOME MY  
FATHER...

...MET MY  
COLLEGE  
PROFESSOR  
MOTHER,  
AND I WAS  
BORN.



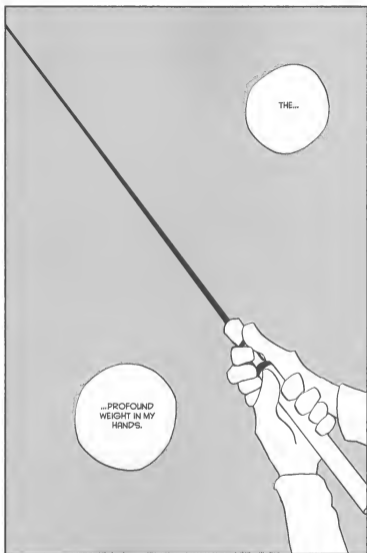
I ONLY EVEN FOUND  
OUT ABOUT MY  
GRANDFATHER FROM  
A WELL-INFORMED  
FELLOW SCIENTIST THAT  
I WAS COLLABORATING  
WITH, WHO KNEW THE  
INSIDE FACTS.



THAT'S  
WHEN I  
DECIDED TO  
VISIT MY  
FATHER.







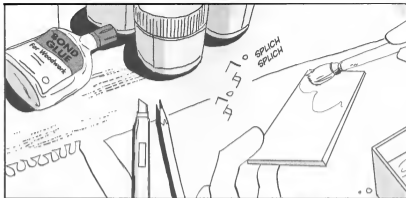
**END**

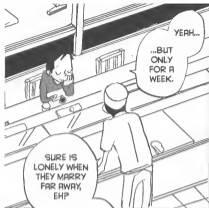
CORNICE

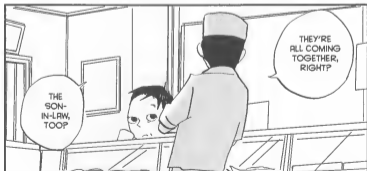
3

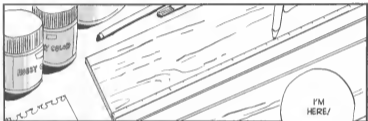
DIORAMA



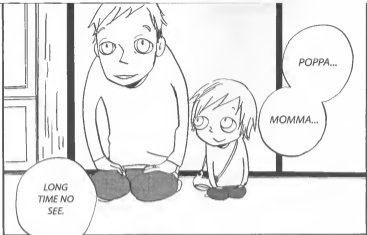












LONG  
TIME NO  
SEE.

POPPA...

MOMMA...



ESPECIALLY  
SINCE FATHER  
HATES WEIRD  
INFLECTIONS.

HE SPEAKS  
SLOWLY, IN  
ORDER TO  
WATCH HIS  
PRONUN-  
CIATION.



ORI-  
GAMI?

YOU  
MADE  
THESE,  
MARITA-  
CHAN?

THAT'S  
INCRED-  
IBLE!



HERE  
ARE  
YOUR  
GIFTS.

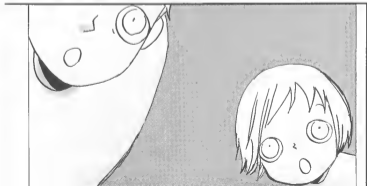
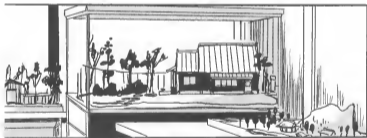
MARITA  
BROUGHT  
YOU GIFTS,  
TOO!



OH MY,  
HE'S ABLE  
TO SPEAK  
JAPANESE  
NOW?

JUST A  
LITTLE.

HIS COMPRE-  
HENSION  
HAS GOTTEN  
QUITE  
GOOD.





DO NOT  
ENTER

...TO  
GO BUY  
BOND...  
I MEAN,  
INK.

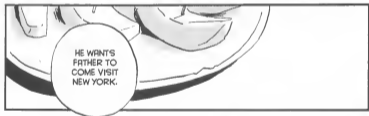
I'M  
GO-  
ING...

HEY.

I'M SO  
SORRY,  
POPPA.

PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME.

CREAK  
CREAK





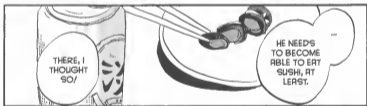
YES,  
I LOVE  
NIPON.

HOW DO  
YOU LIKE  
JAPAN?

WOW, SO  
YOU'RE A  
POLICE  
OFFICER?







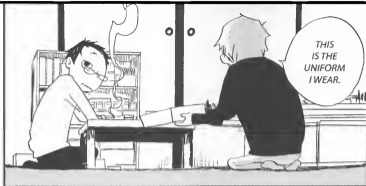


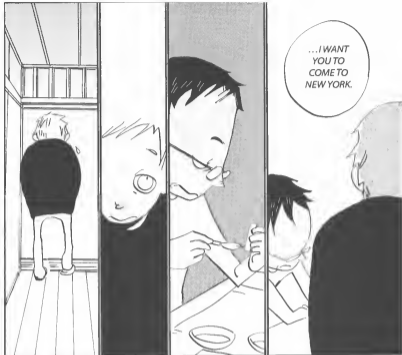


\* ESU = NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY SERVICE UNIT

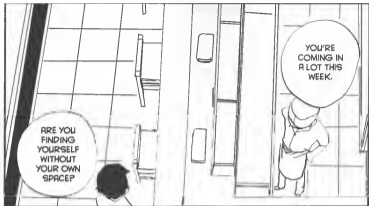


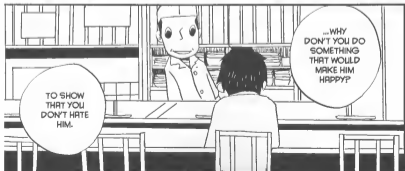
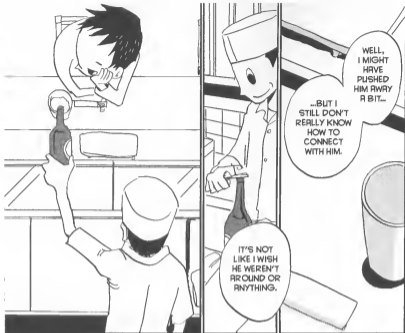


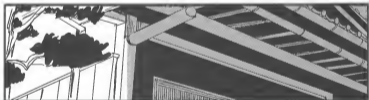


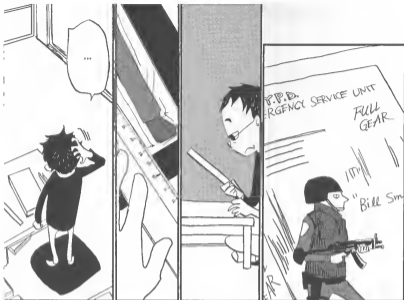


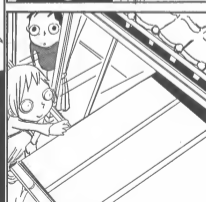


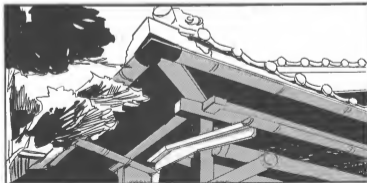


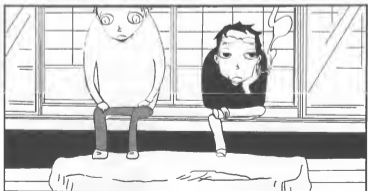


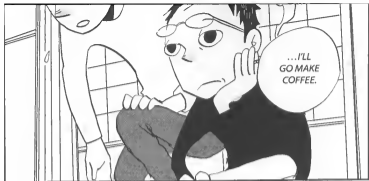


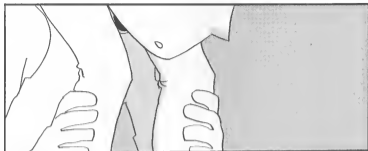
















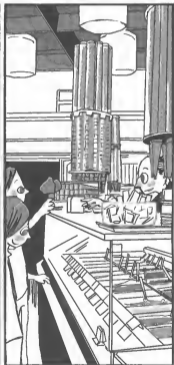
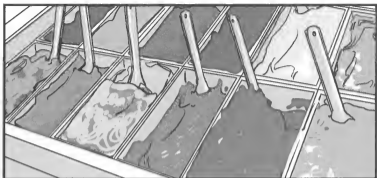
**END**



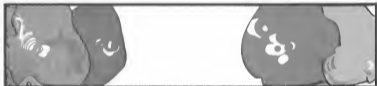
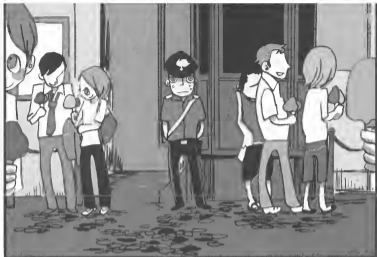
CORNICE

4

# THE GELATERIA AND THE CARABINIERI



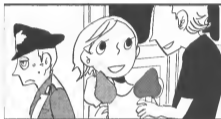
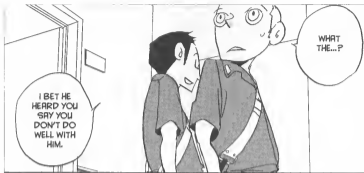






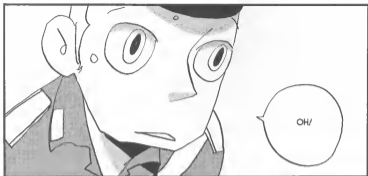


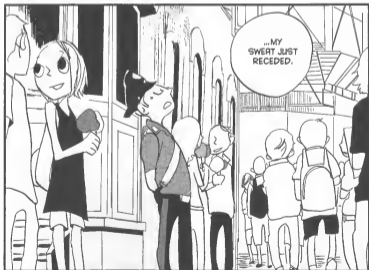












**END**



CORNICE  
5

SMOKE

I THINK  
THAT WAS AN  
EARTHQUAKE.

BUT IT'S  
PROBABLY  
AN EARTH-  
QUAKE.

I DON'T KNOW  
IF THEY GET  
A LOT OF THEM  
IN THIS AREA.



THIS IS  
WHY I HATE  
RICH  
PEOPLE'S  
IDEAS.

ISN'T YOUR  
OWN FAMILY  
PRETTY WELL  
OFF?

A  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTY AT  
AN OLD  
CASTLE?



IT'S YOUR  
FRIEND'S  
BIG  
MOMENT.  
PLEASE  
COME.

HEY.

SO...

DON'T  
INVITE  
ME.

YOU'LL BE  
CELEBRATED  
AS THE NEW  
HEAD OF THE  
FAMILY. IT'S  
GONNA BE  
FULL OF YOUR  
PARENTS' RICH  
ACQUAINTANCES,  
RIGHT?



YOU CAN  
JUST COME  
LIKE THAT,  
IN A BLACK  
TURTLENECK.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
WEAR A  
SUIT.

...THAN MY  
OLD MAN'S  
WORK-  
RELATED  
GUESTS.

I'D  
RATHER  
PARTY  
WITH MY  
FRIENDS...





OF  
COURSE IT'D  
COLLAPSE.

THIS  
PLACE IS  
ANCIENT.

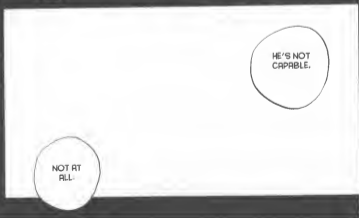


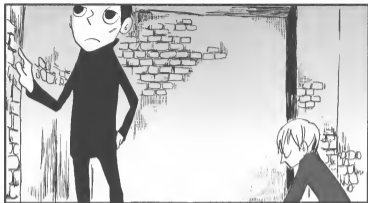


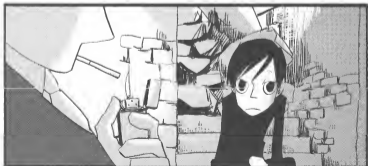
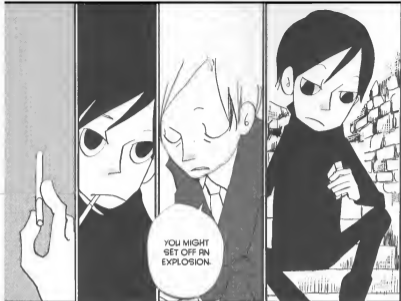
PIETRO...

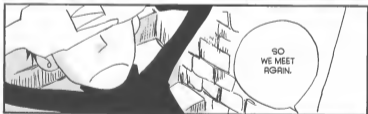
WHY DO  
YOU HATE  
PIETRO SO  
MUCH...

ALDO?











...PIETRO'S  
SMILING  
FACE.



ISN'T THERE  
ANY WAY WE  
CAN AVOID  
EVER MEETING  
AGAIN?



I DON'T  
LIKE SEEING  
YOUR FACE.



PLEASE DO  
INTRODUCE  
ME TO YOUR  
FRIENDS.



I'M  
GLAD I  
COULD  
MAKE IT.

THE  
PLEASURE  
IS MINE. I'M  
SO HAPPY  
YOU'RE  
HERE.



HEY,  
PIETRO!

THANKS  
FOR  
COMING  
OUT WHEN  
YOU'RE  
SO BUSY.





SINCE I  
FIGURED  
YOU'D BE AT  
THE CENTER  
OF THE  
ACTION.



THAT'S  
A LIE.



YOU  
GOT TIRED,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?



EVERYONE  
WENT OUT  
INTO THE  
GARDENS.

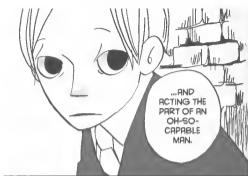


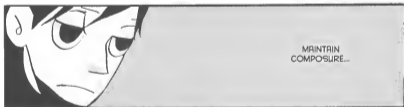
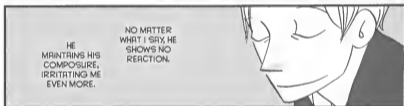
AND  
THAT'S  
HOW YOU  
ENDED  
UP BEING  
TRAPPED  
IN HERE.

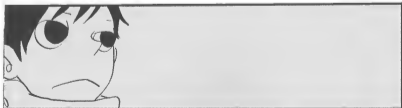
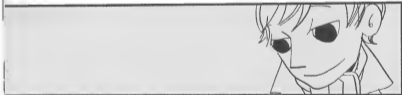
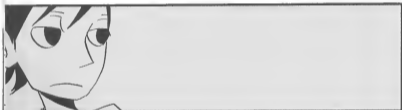


SO HOW  
COME YOU  
WERE STILL  
INSIDE THE  
STRUCTURE?

BATH-  
ROOM.









IT'S NOT  
LIKE...

...I AVOID  
YOU BECAUSE  
I DON'T LIKE  
BEING  
COMPARED  
TO YOU.

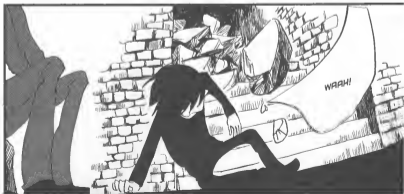
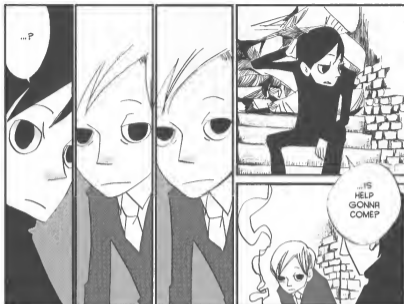


IT IRKS ME  
THAT YOU  
DON'T SHOW  
YOUR TRUE  
FEELINGS.



WHERE'S  
THE FUN IN  
FORCING A  
FAKE PERSONA  
UPON  
YOURSELF..





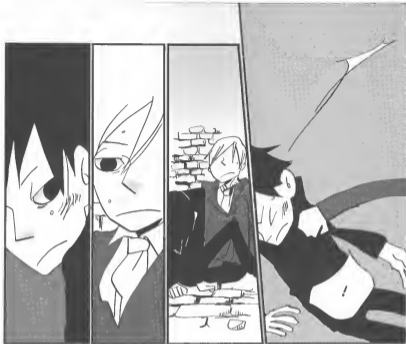


...YOU  
ACCIDENTALLY  
SHOWED SOME  
REAL EMOTION.

...AH,  
LOOK'S  
LIKE...









IT'S NO  
BURDEN.

...BURDEN?

...TO  
LIVING  
MY LIFE  
HUMORING  
OTHERS.

UNLIKE  
YOU, I'M  
USED...

YOU HAVE  
NO IDEA...

...HOW  
SEVERE OUR  
FATHER WAS.



YOU WERE  
BORN AFTER  
HE'D AGED AND  
MELLOWED OUT.



I GREW  
UP ALWAYS  
MINDFUL OF  
OUR OLD  
MAN'S  
GAZE.

SO  
HUMORING  
OTHERS IS  
SECOND  
NATURE  
TO ME.

I'M NOT  
PRETENDING  
TO BE SOME-  
ONE ELSE.





...YOU DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT...

...CONDUCTING  
YOURSELF AS  
YOU LIKE.



THIS /IS/  
THE REAL  
ME.



HOW  
COULD TWO  
CHILDREN...

...BORN  
INTO THE  
SAME FAMILY,  
BE SO  
DIFFERENT?



PLEASE, I  
DON'T THINK  
TO MYSELF  
EACH AND  
EVERY TIME,  
TO GIVE  
YOU...

...A  
COURTESY  
SMILE, JUST  
TO PISS  
YOU OFF.



THE THING I  
HATE MOST IN  
THIS WORLD  
IS *YOUR*  
WORDS AND  
DEEDS...

...WHERE  
YOU ASSUME  
YOU KNOW  
AND UNDER-  
STAND ME.

IN THE  
FREEDOM  
OF OUR  
SOULS.



TO CALM  
MYSELF  
DOWN.

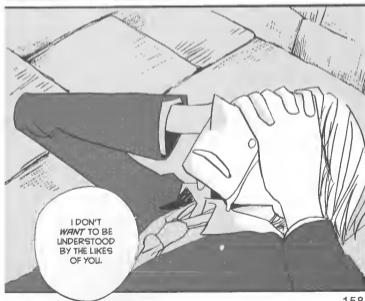
I DO IT  
TO CURB MY  
OWN ANGER  
TOWARDS  
YOU.



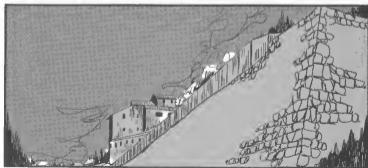


ALONE.

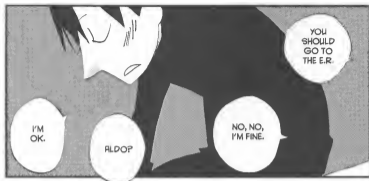
I JUST  
WANT TO  
KEEP LIVING  
AS I HAVE  
ALREADY.



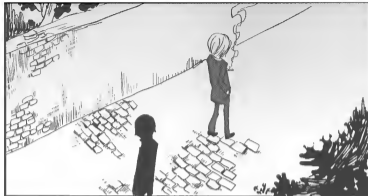
I DON'T  
WANT TO BE  
UNDERSTOOD  
BY THE LIKES  
OF YOU.











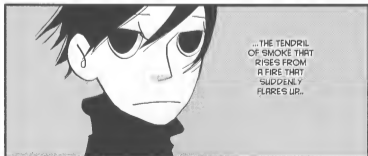
ONCE AGAIN,  
HE'S SHUT  
AWAY THE TRUE  
FEELINGS HE  
SHOWED JUST  
EARLIER.



...BUT, NOW  
I CAN SEE A  
SMOLDERING  
THAT WASN'T  
VISIBLE  
BEFORE.



JUST LIKE...



...THE TENDRIL  
OF SMOKE THAT  
RISES FROM  
A FIRE THAT  
SUDDENLY  
FLARES UP..

AND  
JUST AS  
RAPIDLY  
BURNS  
OUT.



**END**



A WHOLE  
MONTH. OUR  
ELEVATOR'S  
BEEN  
BROKEN.



CLIMBING  
UP A SINGLE  
FLIGHT ISN'T  
SO BAD.

BUT GOING  
FROM THE  
BASEMENT  
UP TO THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR?

NOW  
THAT'S  
ANNOY-  
ING!



THERE  
YOU GO  
AGAIN.



TELL HIM,  
"PLEASE  
PRIORITIZE  
THE REPAIR,"  
EHP

IF YOU'RE  
GONNA KEEP  
COMPLAINING  
EVERY DAY,  
GO SAY IT TO  
THE CHIEF'S  
FACE.



GRIPING  
BEHIND  
PEOPLE'S  
BACKS IS PART  
OF HIS DAILY  
ROUTINE.



I'M NOT  
WASTING MY  
BREATH ON  
SOMETHING  
SO POINT-  
LESS.



TAKING AFTER  
MY PARTNER,  
KEITH.



PARTNERS

# DETECTIVE



VAL,  
DON'T  
YOU HAVE  
TO BE AT  
COURT?





I WARNED  
YOU WHEN  
WE FIRST  
PARTNERED  
UP A FEW  
MONTHS  
BACK...

...BUT  
IT HASN'T  
IMPROVED  
AT ALL.

YOU NEED  
TO HURRY UP  
AND GET IT  
TOGETHER,  
VAL.



YOU'RE TOO  
CARELESS  
WITH TIME.



YOU'RE  
TOO  
PUNCTUAL,  
KEITH.



WHAT  
AN AWFUL  
PARTNER  
I'VE ENDED  
UP WITH!



WE DON'T  
SHARE ANY  
INTERESTS,  
EITHER.







YOU REALLY  
ARE THE BEST  
PARTNER  
TO LEARN  
DETECTIVE  
WORK  
FROM.



I'M REALLY  
GLAD TO BE  
PARTNERED  
WITH YOU,  
YOU KNOW?



YOU DO  
EVERYTHING  
IMPECCABLY.

YOU'RE AN  
OUTSTANDING  
DETECTIVE,

WITH  
A HIGH  
ARREST  
COUNT.



THOUGH  
YOU DO  
HAVE A FEW  
PERSONALITY  
FLAWS.

LIKE NOT  
MAKING  
WAVES WITH  
THE HIGHER-  
UPS.



THIS  
HAS BEEN  
HAPPENING  
TO YOU FOR  
A WHILE, EH,  
KEITH?

GETTING  
STUCK WITH  
A RECRUIT.



I'VE GOT  
PLANS.





SOMEONE  
PROBABLY  
THINKS  
YOU'RE  
ADEPT AT  
TRAINING  
ROOKIES.

THEY PUSH  
THE BURDEN  
ONTO ME,  
EVEN WITH  
VETERAN  
DETECTIVES  
AROUND.

WELL,  
ON THE  
OTHER HAND,  
I ALSO  
KINDA GET  
WHAT...

PLUS,  
YOU'RE  
A MODEL  
COR

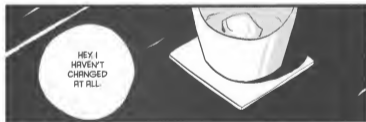
...THIS  
PARTNER  
OF YOURS  
IS SAYING...



...ABOUT  
YOU HAVING  
FLAWS.



YOU'VE  
GOTTEN  
PROGRESSIVELY  
SOFTER EVERY  
YEAR.











KEITH IS  
ALWAYS  
THE FIRST  
TO BE...

COME  
HERE A  
SEC.



...SUSPECTED  
WHEN SUCH  
RUMORS  
SURFACE.

HE'S A  
TRANSFER,  
AND YET  
DESPITE THAT,  
HE PERFORMS  
WAY TOO  
WELL.



KEITH ACTS  
CALM AND  
SETTLED SO  
AS NOT TO  
MAKE WAVES,  
RIGHT?



...HE'S  
STILL  
MINDFUL  
OF THE TOP  
BRASS.

...WHILE HE  
MAY NOT BE  
CURRYING  
FAVOR...

EVEN  
YOUR FELLOW  
DETECTIVES  
WERE SAYING  
THAT...

I THINK  
HE'S JUST  
LEARNED HIS  
LESSON.

AND THAT  
EVEN WITH  
THE PAST THAT  
HE HAS, HE MAY  
BE LOOKING  
TO CLIMB THE  
RANKS.

THERE ARE  
LOTS OF  
UNPLEASANT  
RUMORS  
ABOUT  
KEITH...

...BUT  
THIS ONE'S  
ESPECIALLY  
TERRIBLE.

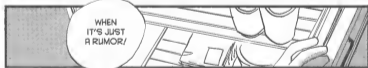
CAN  
PEOPLE  
REALLY  
CHANGE  
THAT  
EASILY?

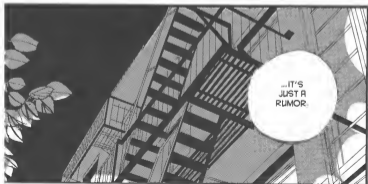
OR AT  
LEAST THAT'S  
WHAT YOUR  
COLLEAGUES  
WERE  
SAYING.

HE MIGHT  
BE A PRETTY  
DODGY GUY,  
SINCE HE CAME  
HERE AFTER SOME  
ISSUE AT HIS  
OLD SQUAD  
HOUSE...

















HE SEEMED  
LIKE A DRUG  
DEALER.



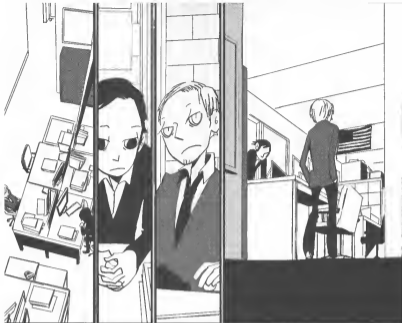
...HE'S NOT  
FROM THIS  
DISTRICT.



BE-  
SIDES  
WHICH...

IS IT  
OKAY  
IF IT'S  
OUTSIDE  
OF OUR  
JURISDIC-  
TION?

WHAT  
HE'S  
LEAKING IS  
APPARENTLY  
INTEL ON  
OTHER  
JURISDIC-  
TIONS.















AS  
EXCEPTIONAL  
AS KEITH IS,  
IT ALSO  
ATTRACTS  
A LOT OF  
RESENTMENT.

IT  
WOULDN'T  
SURPRISE  
ME IF THIS  
NEW RUMOR  
AROSE FROM  
SUCH SPITE,  
TOO...



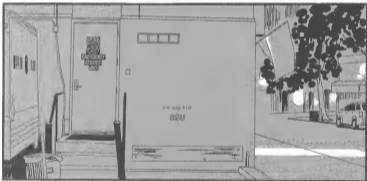


WHY'D HE  
TAKE TIME  
OFF NOW OF  
ALL TIMES?



THOUGH  
I WANT TO  
BELIEVE THAT  
THESE GUYS  
AREN'T THAT  
LOW...











WAS  
HE EATING  
DONUTS AND  
PLAYING  
HOOKY?

BIG BRO  
HERE SAYS  
HE MET WITH  
KEITH IN THE  
BRONX THE  
OTHER DAY.



WE  
ATE SOME  
TOGETHER.

HA HA  
HA.



KEITH  
HELPED  
HIM GET  
STRAIGHTENED  
OUT.

AND  
THE BIG  
BROTHER  
HAS PRIORS  
FOR DRUG  
DEALING, BUT  
HE'S LIVING  
HONESTLY  
NOW.



KEITH  
ONCE SAVED  
THE KID BROTHER  
FROM  
DROWNING  
DURING  
A BAD  
STORM.

REAL  
LONG  
AGO.

WHO'RE  
THEY...?





THE ONLY THING HE *WON'T* CONDONE IS OTHERS SLIGHTING THOSE HE THINKS WELL OF

HE'S THAT KIND OF MAN.

...HE DOESN'T REACT EVEN IF HE'S BEING SLANDERED.

WON'T REFUTE IT.

WHICH IS WHY RUMORS KEEP SURFACING, TOO.



I HAD NO IDEA, 'CUZ KEITH WON'T TELL ME A THING.



YOU KNOW...





KEITH IS  
FINALLY  
BACK ON  
THE JOB  
TODAY.



EVEN  
WALKING  
UP ONE  
FLIGHT IS  
ANNOY-  
ING...



...WHAT  
THE HECK  
HAPPENED  
HERE?







YOU GUYS  
CAN'T TRUST  
A FELLOW  
COLLEAGUE?!



I'LL LOOK  
INTO THE  
RUMOR...

...HE  
WENT ON A  
RAMPAGE.

WHO  
WAS  
IT?!

HE'S MY  
PARTNER!

...SO YOU  
SIT THERE  
AND COOL  
YOUR  
HEAD.

WHOSE  
TRUMPED-  
UP STORY  
IS IT?

HOLD  
ON,  
KEITH!

EVERY-  
ONE'S  
DOWNSTAIRS,  
REMEM-  
BER?!

SHADDUP!

YEESH!

KLANG



KEITH WENT  
TO BAT FOR  
ME...P

...



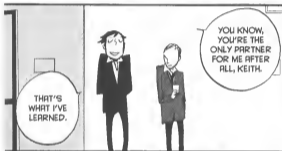
TO DE-  
LIBERATELY  
PUT FORTH A  
RUMOR THAT'D  
MAKE YOU DIS-  
TRUST KEITH,  
TO SHAKE  
YOU UP..P

I MEAN,  
EVEN  
WE ALL  
KNEW...

...IT WAS  
JUST A  
RUMOR.

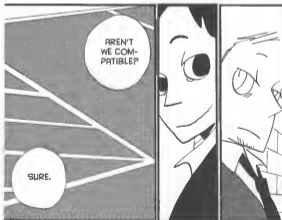
IT  
SOUNDS LIKE  
SOMETHING  
INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS  
WOULD  
DO.





THAT'S  
WHAT I'VE  
LEARNED.

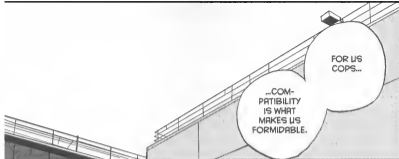
YOU KNOW,  
YOU'RE THE  
ONLY PARTNER  
FOR ME AFTER  
ALL, KEITH.



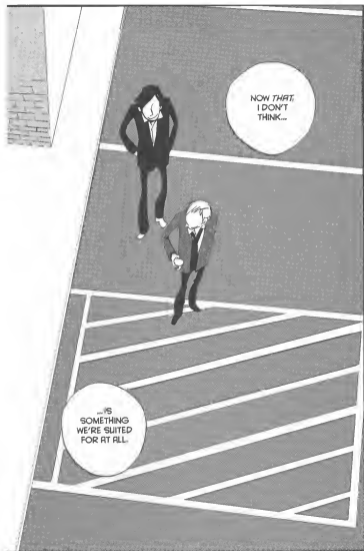
AREN'T  
WE COM-  
PATIBLE?

SURE.









NOW THAT,  
I DON'T  
THINK...

...IS  
SOMETHING  
WE'RE SUITED  
FOR AT ALL.

## Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a foreign cultural reference is used.

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### CORNICE 1 - Rubber Boots

This story takes place in Italy. We can tell this not just from the characters' names, Pippo, Ivo, and Michele Baldassari, but because Ivo answers his cell with "pronto" on page 19, which is the standard phone salutation in Italy. In addition, the year is 2006, because it is the year after Michele's death.



### CORNICE 2 - Memories of the Lake

This story takes place somewhere in the United States. We can tell this from the food items on page 61, as the ice cream container looks suspiciously like Blue Bunny Classic Sundae Cones, and the potato chip bag like Cape Cod Potato Chips.



### CORNICE 3 - Diorama

This story takes place in Japan, as mentioned several times in the story, with some of the characters (the daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter) visiting from New York City.

#### Noren, page 87

Noren are traditional doorway coverings hung in entryways to homes and businesses (the sushi restaurant in this instance), consisting of a lengthwise long rectangular piece of fabric hung off a pole with one or two vertical slits cut bottom up for easier passage. In the case of commercial enterprises, it usually has the establishment's name and sometimes type of business emblazoned on it, and has both a symbolic function of separating "outside" space from "inside," plus the practical application of protecting the interior from wind and dust as well as indicating that the place is open for business (It is normally taken down and stored inside at the end of each day).



#### Marita, page 87

The sushi chef initially mistakes the granddaughter's gender because "-ta" is traditionally used for male names in Japan. The kanji used has a meaning of "great" or "thick," and is meant to impart well wishes for the baby boy's future.



#### "Half," page 88

An abbreviation of the term "half-Japanese," referring to a person of mixed ethnic heritage, that seems to have become common in usage in the 1980s. It has unfortunately at times also had some derogatory connotation.



### Conveyor belt sushi, page 105

Conveyor belt sushi restaurants (*kaitenzushi* in Japanese) are sushi establishments where single portions of one type of fish or roll are served on small plates that circulate around on a rotating conveyor belt that winds its way through the entire eatery. Patrons pick what they want directly off this moving track, which is then restocked by the sushi chefs who are either in the center area or towards one end, and the color of the plate indicates the price of the item sitting on it. Some restaurants have gotten creative, where the plates are racecars, rail cars of a toy train on rail tracks, or miniature boats floating along a canal.



### CORNICE 4 - The Gelateria and the Carabinieri

This is the second story to take place in Italy, although we can narrow it down further to Rome, thanks to the guidebook being carried on page 117, and to the gelateria itself, Giolitti, which boasts the claim of being the oldest ice cream parlor in Rome. The storefront portrayed in this story appears to be that of their flagship location on via Uffici del Vicario, near the Pantheon.

### Gelateria, page 117

A gelateria is a store that sells (and usually also makes) gelato, which while in America is commonly thought of as just the Italian version of ice cream, actually refers to any frozen treat. The ice cream type is generally lighter yet sweeter than its American cousin, containing less butterfat but more sugar, plus incorporates fresh fruit and nut purees, leading to its rapid rise in popularity in urban America in recent times.



### Carabinieri, page 117

The Carabinieri are the national military police of Italy, but they maintain law and order over the civilian population as well.

### CORNICE 5 - Smoke

This story also takes place in Italy, with the main clue once again being the names of the main characters, Pietro and Aldo, plus the jackets worn by the officers who rescue them from the rubble.



### Vigili del Fuoco, page 160

The Vigili del Fuoco, or Fire Watch, is Italy's fire and rescue service agency. It is also responsible for maintaining public safety in the event of a terrorist attack.

### CORNICE 6 - Partners

This story takes place in New York City, as mentioned on page 199, with several scenes specifically set in the borough of the Bronx. In fact, the stationhouse depicted here that Keith and Val are assigned to, the 51st precinct, while unfortunately now closed, was an actual patrol borough and facility of the New York City Police Department or NYPD at one point.



